

Claims

[c1] 1. A device mountable on a golf club having a shaft with oppositely-disposed first and second ends, a grip at the first end of the shaft, and a head at the second end of the shaft, the grip having a first grip portion and a second grip portion located closer to the second end of the shaft than the first grip portion, the grip being tapered so that the second grip portion has a smaller diameter than the first grip portion, the device comprising:

a body;

an opening in the body and defining an inner perimeter of the body, the opening having a minimum dimension larger than the diameter of the second grip portion of the grip but smaller than the diameter of the first grip portion of the grip so that the body is prevented from being removed from the club over the first grip portion;

an outer perimeter spaced radially outward from and surrounding the inner perimeter; and

a slot in the body and extending between the inner and outer perimeters thereof, the slot having a maximum width greater than the diameter of the shaft to permit installation of the body on the golf club.

- [c2] 2. The device according to claim 1, wherein the body is sufficiently rigid to resist distortion of the body when forced into an interference fit with the first grip portion of the body, and the slot is sized so that the device can only be installed on the club by passing the shaft of the club through the slot.
- [c3] 3. The device according to claim 1, wherein the body is sufficiently pliable to enable the device to be installed on the club by passing the first grip portion through the opening in the body, the device further comprising means for selectively causing the opening to acquire the minimum dimension thereof and thereby prevent removal of the device over the first grip portion.
- [c4] 4. The device according to claim 1, further comprising means on the body for resisting torsional slip of a human hand grasping the grip and contacting the body while swinging the club.
- [c5] 5. The device according to claim 4, wherein the slip-resisting means comprises a recess defined on the outer perimeter and sized and contoured to accommodate a portion of the human hand.
- [c6] 6. The device according to claim 4, wherein the slip-resisting means comprises a material on the body, the

material defining a surface of the body disposed at an axial extremity thereof, the material having a higher coefficient of friction than a remaining portion of the body.

- [c7] 7. The device according to claim 1, wherein the device does not weigh more than eight ounces so as not to detrimentally affect swinging of the golf club.
- [c8] 8. A device mounted on a golf club having a shaft with oppositely-disposed first and second ends, a grip at the first end of the shaft, and a head at the second end of the shaft, the grip having a first grip portion and a second grip portion located closer to the second end of the shaft than the first grip portion, the grip being tapered so that the second grip portion has a smaller diameter than the first grip portion, the device comprising:
 - a body having an axis of symmetry;
 - an opening in the body, the opening defining an inner perimeter of the body surrounding the axis of the body and contacting the grip of the club, the opening having a minimum dimension larger than the diameter of the second grip portion of the grip but smaller than the diameter of the first grip portion of the grip so that the body is prevented from being removed from the club over the first grip portion;
 - an outer perimeter spaced radially outward from and surrounding the inner perimeter; and

a slot in the body and extending between the inner and outer perimeters thereof, the slot having a width greater than the diameter of the shaft to permit installation of the body on the golf club.

- [c9] 9. The device according to claim 8, wherein the body is sufficiently rigid and the slot is sized so that the device can only be installed on the club by passing the shaft of the club through the slot.
- [c10] 10. The device according to claim 8, further comprising means on the body for resisting torsional slip of a human hand on the grip when swinging the club.
- [c11] 11. The device according to claim 10, wherein the slip-resisting means comprises a recess defined on the outer perimeter and sized and contoured to accommodate a portion of a human hand.
- [c12] 12. The device according to claim 10, wherein the slip-resisting means comprises a material on the body, the material defining a surface of the body disposed at an axial extremity thereof, the material having a higher coefficient of friction than the body.
- [c13] 13. The device according to claim 8, wherein the device does not weigh more than four ounces so as not to detrimentally affect swinging of the golf club.

- [c14] 14. The device according to claim 8, wherein the body is sufficiently rigid to resist distortion of the body when forced into an interference fit with the first grip portion of the body.
- [c15] 15. The device according to claim 8, further comprising means for closing the slot in the body to prevent the device from being removed from the club.
- [c16] 16. A method for inhibiting hands of a golfer from slipping on a grip of a golf club having a shaft with oppositely-disposed first and second ends and a head at the second end of the shaft, the grip being at the first end of the shaft and having a first grip portion and a second grip portion located closer to the second end of the shaft than the first grip portion, the grip being tapered so that the second grip portion has a smaller diameter than the first grip portion, the method comprising the steps of: providing a device having a body, an opening in the body so as to define an inner perimeter of the body, an outer perimeter spaced radially outward from and surrounding the inner perimeter, and a slot in the body and extending between the inner and outer perimeters thereof; installing the device on the club by passing the shaft of the club through the slot; and securing the device on the club by pushing the device

over the grip until an interference fit exists between the inner perimeter of the body and the first grip portion of the grip, wherein the opening in the body is sufficiently small to prevent the device from being removed from the club over the first grip portion.

- [c17] 17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the slot is sized so that the device can only be installed on the club by passing the shaft of the club through the slot.
- [c18] 18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the body is sufficiently rigid so as to resist distortion of the body during the step of securing the device on the grip.
- [c19] 19. The method according to claim 16, wherein the body is sufficiently pliable to enable the device to be installed on the club by passing the first grip portion through the opening in the body, the method further comprising the step of selectively causing the opening to acquire the minimum dimension thereof and thereby prevent removal of the device over the first grip portion.
- [c20] 20. The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of forming the device to have means for resisting torsional slip of a human hand on the grip when swinging the club.